

## ***South Orangetown Central School District's Goals for the 2009-2010 School Year***

### **Curriculum – District-wide**

Lynn Gorey, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction

The following are examples of the District's 2009-2010 objectives for curriculum and instruction as well as accomplishments during the summer hiatus:

- the continuation of our **English and Math curriculum through electronic mapping;**
- the development or enhancement of **wikis and blogs** for classroom;
- an updating of a **robotics unit** for middle school technology program;
- the review of a proposal for a **sustainability class** at the High School;
- the development of a plan to use **Kindles** ( a hand held device to store e-books and other digital media) as an instructional tool;
- a program to support the use of **Nintendo Wii for special needs students** at WOS & TZE.

We are developing:

- a K-12 writing benchmark with our K-12 Leadership Team
- a K-12 Math Leadership Team will be enhancing performance based assessment
- a K-12 foreign language leadership to **expand foreign language programs** to include additional language choices including critical languages.
- the **exploration of virtual online courses** for the Middle School and High School for use in the 2010-11 school year;
- the launching of a **Gifted and Talented wiki** where all resources and information regarding the Gifted and Talented program can be accessed as well as a survey tool for parents, students, and teachers. This will be linked off our district website.

We intend to enlarge our field of capabilities through technology and 21<sup>st</sup> century initiatives in the 2009-2010 school year and well beyond.

### **Technology – District-wide**

George Brady, Director of Technology

Among the department's key projects are:

- **Meal Pay Plus Program** – implements a new online payment and management food service system allowing parents to manage their child(ren)s meal plan and allow for online payment. Parents can also view food choices being made in school. An option to have auto reminders when balances are running low will also be made available.
- A **new storage area network** has knocked down former barriers in the district's previously finite storage capacity. The network is both robust and scalable in order to meet our increasing data storage needs. Instructionally, this will **support e-portfolios, digital content creation, and complex multi-media projects.**
- We are building a **new high speed fiber network to increase our telecommunication capacity between buildings.** This will replace our low speed connections at the elementary schools. The new system will permit centralized computer and network resources, and will allow for the sharing of instructional content between buildings. Additionally, it will provide higher speed to the internet.

We will be piloting the following new programs:

- a digital content management system which will **allow inter-district publishing and sharing of digital based content e.g.: Smartboard lessons, digital video, podcasts**, etc. This will serve as a centralized repository for digital content easily accessibly by teachers, students, and staff;
- use of **desktop videoconferencing in building technology labs and other select areas**. This will help facilitate global connections, and access to content experts such as scientists, doctors, authors, etc.;
- As part of our continuing goal to support 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, the district will be looking to **utilize more web 2.0 based tools to support teaching and learning such as wikis, blogs, podcasts, videoconferencing both in district as well as globally**;
- We will begin to pilot the **implementation of wireless access to technology resources**. We will be providing wireless connectivity to certain areas within the district;
- The district is a member of the Rockland County 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Project. This project is designed as an initiative to **establish an educational and professional working network between all Rockland school districts and to create an educational portal through which all teachers throughout the county will be able to access and share instructional materials and information**.

It is the goal of the Technology Department to provide access to instructional tools and resources to support state-of-the-art teaching and learning. This will empower our students giving them the skills necessary to be globally competitive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

## **Special Education – District-wide**

Michele Fenster, Director of Special Education & Student Services;  
Eleanor Young, Assistant to the Director of Special Education / CSE Chair

The Department of Special Education's 2009-2010 key initiatives include:

- welcoming a district-based BOCES class to WOS school to **integrate our special needs students into a typical K-1 building**;
- moving to a **greener process in the distribution of necessary documents** to appropriate staff;
- installation of the **most technologically-advanced F/M sound field systems in 10 classrooms at the high school to meet the needs of our classified students**;
- the use of **updated technology in creating an outreach to parents** through our website, as well as newly created communication materials;
- the use of ARRA stimulus funds
  - \* to support staff development in differentiation at the middle school;
  - \* for the **purchase of new laptops and Smartboards to expand student learning**;
- continuing our collaboration with the Office of Curriculum and Instruction in supporting all buildings with Response to Intervention (RTI) staffing, enabling us to support the needs of students at the building level. **Each building will have an RTI Team**.

### **Accolades:**

- This summer, after a review by the New York State Education Department the **Department of Special Education was found to be 100% compliant in timely evaluations and referrals.**
- The Director of Special Education has been invited to present at the first SEPTA meeting which will continue to afford communication collaboration between parents and school.

The office of Special Education and Student Services looks forward to the 2009-10 school year and the anticipation of meeting the diverse needs of our students, fostering learning in the least restrictive environment, and preparing them to transition successfully in meeting the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **Facilities – District-wide**

Philip Scala, Director of Facilities; Anthony Dario, Assistant Director of Facilities

After the successful completion of our major pool renovation project, the Department of Facilities enjoyed an extremely productive summer. Here are some of the highlights:

- **Parking lots at WOS, CLE, SOMS, and TZHS have now been blacktopped;**
- **We have upgraded our security systems to include new burglar alarms in every building as well as exterior and interior keying systems district wide.**
- **Each building has also been equipped with an intercom/camera system. The district is in the process of installing a web-based closed circuit television security system.**
- **Numerous classrooms received needed renovations, painting, cleaning and overall preparation for September.**
- **We have reconditioned and sanded the gymnasium floors in ALL buildings.**

Moving forward we anticipate the 2009-2010 school year projects to include numerous upgrades and implementations. We are in the process of finalizing a **new Energy Performance Contract** which will include:

- one new boiler at TZHS, SOMS, TZE & WOS. (CLE received new boilers during the prior capital project)
- Generally, throughout the District there will be new lighting fixtures and lighting controls, including occupancy sensors, timers, ballasts and lamps (bulbs) in hallways, classrooms, support areas, and bathrooms.
- water saver controls in kitchens
- pipe insulation
- vending machine misers
- new building management system – controls all electrical devices via computer
- energy efficient motors and transformers
- centralized computer management system
- TZHS – Photovoltaic System 2KW will be installed on the roof for educational purposes. Although it will generate electricity and offset usage, the primary drive is an educational point of view. The photocell installation includes a kiosk, which will be placed in the high school.

**(These projects will be funded through guaranteed energy savings that will be made through greater energy efficiency and will save the taxpayers over \$4.5 million dollars.)**

## William O. Schaefer – K - 1

Nora Polansky, Principal; Jeannine Carr, Assistant Principal

Examples of major initiatives for the 2009-2010 school year include the following:

- **to support parents' understanding of instructional practices and interventions** that sustain student achievements. This is made possible through the coffee chat program, which will continue and hopefully attract an even larger parent base this year;
- to continue to enhance articulation and collaborations across schools by sustaining our **“Writers Workshops” in partnership with Tappan Zee Elementary and to expand it to include a Kindergarten – 1<sup>st</sup> grade partnership;**
- to use **21<sup>st</sup> century technology in the form of blogging** to establish remote information input centers for input of student data for review and discussion by staff, and to enhance teaching possibilities;
- with new additions to our **Smartboards and desktop computers**, we will be able to further enhance the integration of technology throughout the entire curriculum by developing **multi sensory lesson plans that will support all students;**
- with the support of our PTA, WOS will launch a **“Germ Smart” curriculum teaching students, in a developmentally appropriate way, important personal health habits necessary in Keeping Healthy.**

While we have many significant areas of application and attention, our overall goal for 2009-10 is to challenge all students to aspire to their highest levels of academic and social development through learning, understanding, and personal satisfaction.

## Tappan Zee Elementary School – Grades 2 – 3

Dr. William Lee, Principal; Beth Lipton, Assistant Principal

In addressing the needs of our students for the 2009-2010 school year, examples of our goals and new projects include the following:

- In order to maximize the literacy experience, in conjunction with 21<sup>st</sup> century applications, our students will have the opportunity to build their skills in **virtual communication by blogging** with Principal Lee in response to our character education read-alouds. This pilot program will later be expanded to include additional staff and topics of interest or information;
- TZE students will learn about **digital movie-making, including green screen and Mac editing capabilities.** Over the course of the year the students will write, film and edit a range of film genres including: documentary, narrative and shorts. Student work will be presented to the community via and **inaugural TZE film festival;**
- Students will use **video-conferencing technology to connect to other students within the district, and with other districts and community groups around the state / country.** Our new technology committee will be assisting in setting up venues and causes.

We expect our students and staff to be both excited as well as challenged in the 2009-10 school year utilizing their creativity not only in meeting those identified initiatives but, as importantly, in generating new ones.

## Cottage Lane Elementary – Grades 4 - 5

Brian Culot, Principal; Mark N. Soss, Interim Assistant Principal

In addressing the needs of our students for the 2009-10 school year, examples of our goals and new projects include the following:

- One of Cottage Lane's primary areas of interest is to **establish an interactive website through which parents can access more information regarding what is happening in their child's classroom.** Day to day interests, special events, and any other matter of concern will be available to them through the site. This will be a vital tool parents will be able to use in order to remain more deeply involved in their children's educational lives;
- Another focus for 2009-10 will be to build on the process that began last year between TZE and WOS. Our plan is to make a similar **connection between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teachers to enhance communication, and to create a common language around the writing process for our students;**
- We will continue to provide professional development opportunities to our staff in the use of Smartboard technology allowing for the ability to expand lesson plans and activities for educational development;
- Since Cottage Lane Elementary has two new administrators, this year one of our major initiatives is to familiarize ourselves with the school's culture, tradition and its history of success. We will connect with the faculty and staff in our efforts to enable us to begin to build a warm, inviting, and respectful environment for children and their parents.

## South Orangetown Middle School – Grades 6 – 8

Karen Tesik, Principal; Paul Guglielmo, Assistant Principal

As we begin our Middle School journey together, we are excited to look ahead to the challenges of meeting the needs of all of our students. We will continue to address their social and emotional needs through these adolescent years while maintaining a culture based on acceptance and respect.

- Our focus for the year will be to create learning opportunities and experiences that:
  - \* **will allow all students to transition to the high school with the knowledge and experience of utilizing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and exploring 21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes;**
  - \* **will address the diverse needs of learners;**
  - \* **will foster a respectful learning environment;**
  - \* **will continually search for avenues that Enhance Student Literacy;**

In particular the Middle School will be:

- creating lessons using the newest technologies available including Smartboards, Web 2.0 tools and I-Touches;
- implementing the use of laptop carts to allow for greater differentiation of lessons. This will entail working with IDE consultants to develop units based on 21<sup>st</sup> century themes for every grade level;

- reflecting on NYS assessment data, classroom assessment data, tri-state reports and survey results to continually refine programs and curriculum so as to celebrate our success and address our needs.
- investigating and implementing social, emotional, and character education programs to foster a respectful learning environment;

We are looking forward to a great year filled with excitement and numerous opportunities to showcase our best work.

## **Tappan Zee High School – Grades 9 - 12**

Ed Bolan, Principal; Sheila Silverman, Assistant Principal; Juliet Gevargis, Assistant Principal

**In response to the results of the ACT scores for TZHS the administrators collectively stated they are very happy to be able to report that overall our students continue to outperform state average scores on the ACT which is a test that measures college readiness. The number of our students taking the ACT continues to grow significantly each year.**

New challenges and visions will include the following:

- addressing our students needs to meet the challenges of higher education and the changing demands in the field of employment in the 21<sup>st</sup> century by **expanding course offerings to include:**
  - \* **Environmental science**
  - \* **Project Lead The Way – principles of engineering**
  - \* **TV production which will include live broadcasting**
- As a result of meeting with our Honors Committee and Curriculum Council, we will be instituting a **9<sup>th</sup> grade honors program in English, and Social Studies, and an Advanced Studies class in biology.**
- TZHS and SOMS will maintain their departmental articulation throughout the school year with the focus on continually evaluating and improving curriculum in an ongoing effort to enhance and ease the transition from middle school to high school.
- To meet the needs of our diverse learners, **Smartboard technology has been amplified through professional development opportunities for our staff** in our solid efforts to deliver student centered, interactive instruction utilized in addition to our already successful teacher websites, blogs, wikis, and Skype capabilities.

We look forward to working with students, parents, and the community at large in a constant focus on engaging our students and arming them with the tools necessary to face the ground-breaking challenges awaiting them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.